Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06258 111250Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2375

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 6258

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 TAGS: ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO KING KHALID: "OPEC

OIL PRICE DECISION"

REF: STATE 214123

- 1. I GAVE PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO PRINCE SAUD SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER, THIS MORNING (SEPT 10). IT WAS TRANSLATED AND GIVEN TO KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
- 2. I SAW PRINCE SAUD AND PETROLEUM MINISTER ZAKI YAMANI LATER IN THE AFTERNOON. BOTH SAID THEY WERE SURPRISED AT THE LETTER AND ASKED WHY IT WAS NEEDED. THEY SAID WE ALREADY KNEW SAUDI ARABIA'S POSITION, THAT IT HAD BEEN STATED BOTH PUBLICY AND PRIVATELY. ITS POLICY WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR WISHES, I.E. TO FREEZE OIL PRICES AT LEAST UNTIL JANUARY 1976. THEY SAID THEY HOPED THE UNITED STATES, THIS TIME, WOULD PUT STRONG PRESSURE ON IRAN AND OTHER OPEC MEMBERS TO COOPERATE WITH SAUDI ARABIA TO KEEP THE LID ON PRICES. AS THEY HAD SAID BEFORE, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO ACT AGAINST A UNITED OPEC. I AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT THIS TIME IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE.
- 2. I ASKED IF WE COULD EXPECT A REPLY IN WRITING. CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCE SAUD SAID HE DIDN'T THINK ONE WAS NECESSARY

BUT THERE MIGHT BE ONE; IT WOULD, HOWEVER, SAY NO
MORE THAN WHAT HE HAD JUST TOLD ME.
AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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Subject: PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO KING KHALID: "OPEC OIL PRICE DECISION"

TAGS: ENRG, SA, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (KHALID)
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